

have been disturbed for a long time possibly not since Lord Clonbrock's death in 1926. In some drawers, dead Australian Spider Beetles (*Ptinus tectus* Boieldieu) were evident but they had caused no obvious damage. There was a little mite and mould damage.

(3) This cabinet held a mixture of insect groups including Hymenoptera, Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Trichoptera and Odonata. Nearly all the specimens had been named but few had data labels. The species appeared to be mostly ones which are widely distributed.

(4) The fourth cabinet contained Lepidoptera which were probably collected on the Continent. They were also named but lacked data.

There are various views as to why Dillon was responsible for so many discredited records (Beirne, 1953; Huggins, 1953). However, after over fifty years since his death, it is now unlikely that the truth will be ever ascertained. Nevertheless, my examination of his collection does indicate that careless labelling may have been responsible for some erroneous records. Whether it contributed to a significant degree must remain unknown.

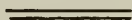
There are voucher specimens representing most of Dillon's doubtful records preserved in the National Museum of Ireland.

Acknowledgement

I am very grateful to Mr. Luke Dillon-Mahon for giving me the opportunity to examine the R. E. Dillon collection and for making my visit such a pleasant one.

References

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- Beirne, B. P. 1953. The curious entomological activities of the Hon. R. E. Dillon. *Entomologists's Gaz.* 4: 67-72.
- Huggins, H. C. 1953. The Dillon enigma. *Entomologists's Gaz.* 4: 305-307.



ACLYPEA OPACA L. (COL.: SILPHIDAE) IN WEST KENT —
 To judge from the records (or rather, the lack of them), this phytophagous Silphid has become decidedly rare with us during the latter half or more of the present century, though formerly it seems to have been less uncommon. In the course of some 50 years I have met with it but three times; one of these finds (of several on beet and goosefoot at Burwell Fen, Cambs.) was briefly mentioned in 1950, *Ent. mon. Mag.*, 86 : 43. In June 1943 I took an example by sweeping at Byfleet, Surrey, the locality being next door to Woking whence Fowler (1889, *Col. Brit. Isl.*, 3: 50) records it. My first capture however was as long ago as August 1930, when a pair occurred in a rotten stump on Seal Common in the Sevenoaks district. I have seen no published record of *A. opaca* for West Kent; Fowler (1908, VCH list) gives only Whitstable and Deal, both in the eastern vice-county. — A. A. ALLEN.